

Application No. 10/074,356
Amendment dated December 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated September 8, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a back side and two side walls, wherein the side walls define a slot that is spaced from the back side of the carrier for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent to insert the elongated member into the slot the elongated member having a back portion that faces the back side of the elongated carrier when the elongated member is received by the slot, and the elongated slit of the elongated member extends into the cavity of the elongated member through the back portion of the elongated member.

2. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein at least part of the

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elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent to insert the elongated light source through the slit and into the cavity.

3. (Previously Presented) An elongated light according to claim 1 further comprising means for latching the slit into a closed or substantially closed position.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the slot and the elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated member is received by ~~in~~ the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated member to help keep the slit in the elongated member in a closed or substantially closed position.

7. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source is an Electro-Luminescent wire.

8. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the elongated light source is a Linear Emitting Fiber.

9. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the slit in

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the elongated member is normally at least partially open when the at least part of the elongated member is not received by the slot so that the elongated light source may be inserted into the cavity, and wherein the elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent to close the slit when the at least part of the elongated member is received by the slot.

10. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member; and

the slot and elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated member is received by ~~in~~ the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated slit or opening of the elongated member.

11. (Currently Amended) An elongated light, comprising:

an elongated light source;

an elongated member having a length with a cavity, the cavity extending along at least a major length of the elongated member for receiving the elongated light source;

an elongated slit that extends along at least a major length of the cavity, the slit extending

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into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent to insert the at least part of the elongated member into the slot; and

the slot and elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated member is received by in the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated member to help keep the slit in the elongated member in a closed or substantially closed position.

12. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein at least part of the elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent to insert the elongated light source through the slit and into the cavity.

13. (Previously Presented) An elongated light according to claim 11 further comprising means for latching the slit into a closed or substantially closed position.

14. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein the slit in the elongated member is normally at least partially open when the at least part of the elongated member is not received by the slot ~~so that the elongated light source may be inserted into the cavity,~~ and wherein the elongated member must be at least partially elastically deformed or bent

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to close the slit when the at least part of the elongated member is received by the slot.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member.

17. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein the elongated light source is an Electro-Luminescent wire.

18. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein the elongated light source is a Linear Emitting Fiber.

19. (Currently Amended) An elongated light, comprising:
an electro-luminescent wire;
an elongated member having a length with a cavity, the cavity extending along at least part of the length of the elongated member and being adapted for receiving the electro-luminescent wire; and
an elongated slit or opening that extends along at least part of the cavity, the elongated slit

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or opening extending into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, wherein the elongated slit or opening faces the elongated carrier when the at least part of the elongated member is received by the slot.

20. (Original) An elongated light according to claim 19 wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member.

21. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member; and

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member and/or the elongated carrier ~~must be~~ is/are at least partially elastically deformed or bent when to insert the at least part of the elongated member is inserted into the slot, and wherein the elongated slit or opening faces the elongated carrier when the at least part of the elongated

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member is received by the slot.

22. (Previously Presented) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, the elongated slit being defined by two slit defining surfaces; and

wherein a first one of the slit defining surfaces includes a protrusion extending outward toward the second one of the slit defining surfaces, and the second one of the slit defining surfaces includes a recess for receiving the protrusion of the first slit defining surface.

23. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, the elongated light having a viewing side and a non-viewing side, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member on the viewing side of the elongated light, and at least part of the elongated member includes a non-transparent material between the cavity and an outer surface of the elongated member also on the viewing side of the elongated light.

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24. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit with a length that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, the elongated slit being defined by two slit defining surfaces wherein at least part of the two slit defining surfaces are touching one another over a majority of the length of the slit; and

wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member, and at least part of the elongated member includes a non-transparent material between the cavity and an outer surface of the elongated member.

25. (Cancel)

26. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the

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elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated carrier ~~must be~~ is at least partially elastically deformed or bent ~~when to insert~~ the at least part of the elongated member is inserted into the slot.

27. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, wherein at least part of the cavity is defined by an at least semi-transparent material that extends from the cavity to an outer surface of the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member and the elongated carrier ~~must be~~ are at least partially elastically deformed or bent ~~when to insert~~ the at least part of the elongated member is inserted into the slot.

28. (Currently Amended) An elongated light, comprising:

an elongated light source;

an elongated member having a length with a cavity, the cavity extending along at least a major length of the elongated member for receiving the elongated light source;

an elongated slit or opening that extends along at least a major length of the cavity, the

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slit or opening extending into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated carrier ~~must be~~ is at least partially elastically deformed or bent when ~~to insert~~ the at least part of the elongated member is inserted into the slot; and

the slot and elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated member is in the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated slit or opening of the elongated member.

29. (Currently Amended) An elongated light, comprising:

an elongated light source;

an elongated member having a length with a cavity, the cavity extending along at least a major length of the elongated member for receiving the elongated light source;

an elongated slit that extends along at least a major length of the cavity, the slit extending into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member and the elongated carrier ~~must be~~ are at least partially elastically deformed or bent when ~~to insert~~ the at least part of the elongated member is inserted into the slot; and

the slot and elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated

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member is in the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated member to help keep the slit in the elongated member in a closed or substantially closed position.

30. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit that extends into the cavity through the elongated member;

an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving at least part of the elongated member, the slot and elongated member being adapted so that the elongated member ~~must be~~ is at least partially elastically deformed or bent when ~~to insert~~ the elongated member is inserted into the slot; and

wherein the slot and elongated member are adapted so that when the at least part of the elongated member is in the slot, the elongated carrier provides a closing force to the elongated member to help keep the slit in the elongated member in a closed or substantially closed position.

31. (Currently Amended) An elongated light for receiving an elongated light source, the elongated light having a viewing side and a non-viewing side, comprising:

an elongated member having a cavity for receiving the elongated light source and an elongated slit or opening that extends into the cavity through the elongated member, the elongated slit or opening being located on a non-viewing side of the elongated light ~~elongated~~

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member, at least part of the elongated member includes a transparent material between the cavity and an outer surface of the elongated member on the viewing side of the elongated light and a non-transparent material between the cavity and an outer surface of the elongated member also on the viewing side of the elongated light.

32. (Previously Presented) An elongated light according to claim 31 further comprising an elongated carrier, the elongated carrier having a slot for receiving the elongated member, wherein the elongated slit or opening faces the elongated carrier when the elongated member is received by the slot.

33. (Previously Presented) An elongated light according to claim 32 wherein the elongated slit or opening is an elongated slit.

34. (Previously Presented) An elongated light according to claim 32 wherein the elongated slit or opening is an elongated opening.

35. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the elongated carrier is ~~adapted to be~~ secured to a stair step.

36. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 10 wherein the

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elongated carrier is ~~adapted to be~~ secured to a stair step.

37. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 19 wherein the elongated carrier is ~~adapted to be~~ secured to a stair step.

38. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 21 wherein the elongated carrier is ~~adapted to be~~ secured to a stair step.

39. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 1 wherein the ~~elongated carrier and the elongated member are~~ provides ~~adapted to provide~~ a bumper function.

40. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 39 wherein the elongated carrier and the elongated member are ~~adapted to provide~~ secured to and provide a bumper function for a boat.

41. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 39 wherein the elongated carrier and the elongated member are ~~adapted to provide~~ secured to and provide a bumper function for a wall.

42. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 39 wherein the

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elongated carrier and the elongated member are adapted to provide secured to and provide a
bumper function for shelving.

43. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 11 wherein the
~~elongated carrier and the elongated member are adapted to provide~~ provides a bumper function.

44. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 43 wherein the
elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to provide~~ a bumper function for a boat.

45. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 43 wherein the
elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to provide~~ a bumper function for a wall.

46. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 43 wherein the
elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to provide~~ a bumper function for
shelving.

47. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 19 wherein the
elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to provide~~ a bumper function.

48. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 47 wherein the

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elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to~~ provide a bumper function for a boat.

49. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 47 wherein the elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to~~ provide a bumper function for a wall.

50. (Currently Amended) An elongated light according to claim 47 wherein the elongated carrier and the elongated member ~~are adapted to~~ provide a bumper function for shelving.